

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03658 251737Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
-----070037 251912Z /43
O 251725Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8176

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3658

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF PDEV PINT
SUBJ: SOWETO READING ROOM

REF: STATE 173021

1. ASIDE FROM DEVELOPING THE POSSIBILITY OF ENLARGING THE CURRENT SPACE IN THE YMCA, WE HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS TOWARD REPLACEMENT OF THE SOWETO READING ROOM. ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE TOWNSHIP. WE EXPLORED CONSTRUCTION SITE POSSIBILITY WHICH PROVED UNFORTUNATELY TO BE OUTSIDE OF SOWETO. THE YMCA HAS INFORMALLY APPROACHED THE WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD (WRAB) ABOUT CONSTRUCTION BY THE YMCA OF A NEW BUILDING NEXT TO ITS PRESENT FACILITY. BELIEVE WE COULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SPACE IN SUCH A NEW BUILDING, THOUGH THE YMCA DID NOT MENTION OUR INTEREST IN ITS APPROACH TO THE WRAB. TO SECURE WRAB CONSIDERATION THE YMCA WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT PLANS AND ARRANGE FINANCING.

2. THOUGH WE INTEND TO CONTINUE PURSUING THE MATTER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO SO AT THE PRESENT TIME IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, GIVEN THE SENSITIVITY SOUTH AFRICANS ARE EXPERIENCING ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE FACT THAT THE READING ROOM ITSELF HAS RECENTLY COME UNDER PUBLIC SCRUTINY (CAPE TOWN 1044, JOHANNESBURG 1584).

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3. THE CURRENT READING ROOM IN THE YMCA HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN SOWETO. WE BELIEVE THAT A NEW, ENLARGED FACILITY WOULD, IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, BE EQUALLY IF NOT MORE WELCOME.

4. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE FOREGOING BEING PASSED

INFORMALLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE,
BUT WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT IT NOT BE FOR THE PUBLIC
RECORD AT THIS TIME FOR THE REASONS STATED IN PARA 2
ABOVE AND OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE SOWETO YMCA AND
OTHERS WHO ARE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: READING ROOMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR03658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770264-1234
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770722/aaaaatcd.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73c58264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 173021
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1759377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOWETO READING ROOM
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SOPN, SF, YMCA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73c58264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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